

SESSION 2:
*The International
Coal Market*

*Chair: Mr John Karas
Manager, Coal Industries Section
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (ITR)
Australia*

JOHN KARAS

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Mr Karas joined the Australian Public Service in 1980 having completed an honours degree in economics at the University of Western Australia. His first appointment was to the Australian Treasury where he worked on economic and financial issues associated with Australia's international aid program.

In 1983 he moved to the mineral resources area of the former Department of Primary Industries and Energy. In the period to 1990 he provided economic and policy advice on a range of resource industries including diamonds, base metals, aluminium and uranium.

He took up a position in the Department's central policy area in 1990 where he participated in the formulation of a national sustainable development strategy leading up to the first UN Conference on the Environment.

Since mid 1992, apart from a short period in the greenhouse policy unit, he has been working in the coal policy area of the Department. This area, together with other energy and resource functions, moved to the Department of Industry Science and Resources in 1999.

Mr Karas' work on coal has involved the full range of domestic and international issues associated with providing coal and energy policy advice to the Australian Government. He has been closely involved in the development of APEC coal activities and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation on coal between Australia and many countries throughout the region.

Mr Karas is married and has two school age children. His interests include gardening, wood working and photography.